

chzā,	ú	ā,	jhuḥ	jhā,	yuh	yā,
shuh	shā,	zuh	zā,	suh	sā,	
tshuh	tshā,	tchuh	tchā,	tchōt.		
ōng	ung	āng	ing	ēēng	oong	ong
eung	ōōn	yeng	yeong	yong	yeūng	yeung
yeeng	ok	uk.				

Note on the above.

NOTE.—With the above interesting paper I received from Mr. Campbell a specimen of the Lepcha character, in the text and running hands, as well as the alphabet, the sounds of which are given above, in the letters expressing each sound. Mr. Csoma Korosi informs me that these characters, and the language itself have no affinity to the Thibetan, nor to any dialect of it, nor to the dialects of any other oriental language with which he is acquainted. To give a correct lithographed copy of the Lepcha character would be impossible, without submitting the impression to some one acquainted with the language, as the letters are complicated, and very peculiar. It is my intention to await the receipt of Mr. Campbell's promised notices of other Hill tribes, who may have, like the Lepchas, a character of their own, or whose language, exhibiting a mere dialectic difference from the Lepcha, may be expressed in symbols not dissimilar to those now before me. Availing myself meanwhile of Mr. Campbell's assistance in correcting the lithograph of the Lepcha alphabet, I shall be in a position to compare this and the vocabulary with other (possible) characters and tongues in use among neighbouring sept; the affinity of the language may be thus in some sort ascertainable, as forming, perhaps, with its dialectic differences, a distinct family. This may lead to a result in philology which students in the science, as illustrative of general history, might possibly turn to some account.



Notice of some counterfeit Bactrian coins.

Several forgeries of ancient Bactrian coins having within the last eighteen months come to my knowledge, I am induced to make them public, as a caution to our countrymen in Afghanistan, who are so zealously engaged in collecting these rare and valuable relics of the Grecian power in upper Asia.—I cannot better commence this notice, than by quoting the following passage regarding a square silver coin of Amyntas from an article in the *Journal des Savants* for February 1839; where

Mons. Raoul-Rochette says, "what renders me also a little "suspicious regarding the silver coin of Amyntas is, that I observe there, with the exact repetition of the copper coin published by Mr. Prinsep, the sloping cut in the lower part of the coin—which, whether an accident attributable to its make or to its antiquity, does not appear to me to be reproduced on any other coin of different metal, though of the same mint."

From this description I feel convinced that this silver coin of Amyntas, which is of square form, and similar in all respects to that published by Mr. Prinsep, is a forgery, cast in a mould formed from the identical copper coin published by Mr. Prinsep, which belonged to Colonel Stacy. This coin, which was stolen from the Colonel in 1837, must have been carried back to the Punjab, from whence it originally came, where a forged silver coin was made from it, and sold to General Allard; who in 1838 forwarded a sketch of it to France, which arrived in time for publication in the *Journal des Savants* for February 1839. Such is the history of this remarkable forgery of a rare coin, which we may still hope to recover from the Punjab, along with the rest of Colonel Stacy's valuable collection. The lovers of numismatic science will be pleased to learn that a genuine copper coin of Amyntas, of square form, and similar in all respects to that which belonged to Colonel Stacy, but in less good preservation, exists in France in the collection of General Court, of which a description may be found in the *Journal des Savants* for February 1839.

Accompanying the sketch of the silver piece of Amyntas were sketches of two other silver coins of square form, both of Menander, and both acquired in the Punjab by General Allard. The reverse of these new coins were an owl, and the Macedonian buckler with Medusa's head—two types that were already known in copper; which circumstance has led M. Raoul-Rochette to suspect them to be "the work of some forgers." The fact of these two suspicious silver pieces of Menander having been acquired in the same year with the forgery of that of Amyntas, and by the same person, in the same country, united to their perfect identity in all their elements with copper coins

already known, and added to their shape and size, (that of a square didrachma, which is altogether unprecedented in any Grecian monetary system), all seem to render it highly probable that these two square silver pieces of Menander are likewise forgeries.

Of the forged coins that have come under my own notice, I can speak with more certainty; the most remarkable of which is a gold piece of Apollodotus, of square form, and of small size, belonging to Col. Sir C. M. Wade, c. B. whose valuable collection of coins I was kindly permitted to examine in October 1838. This piece is identical in type and legend, in make and general appearance, with the square silver coins of that prince, which are so well known, and it has evidently been cast in a mould formed from one of the silver coins, for the edges of the gold piece are sharp, and bear the marks of the file, and the point where the metal was run in is easily known by the confusion of the letters at the *same* place on both sides of the piece. I have seen about twenty of the square silver coins of Apollodotus, and I can vouch that this gold piece has not the same clearness and sharpness which is observable in the letters of the genuine coins; a circumstance owing to its having been cast, and not stamped. Besides which the only known *gold* Bactrian coin is of round form; which alone would lead me to suspect the genuineness of this new piece, but when to its square form (which is quite novel in gold) is added its perfect identity in type, size, and make, with the square silver coins of that prince, I have no hesitation in recording my belief that this is a spurious medal.

The forgeries next in importance are two thick round silver pieces of Azes, of large size: only one of these pieces is of good silver, the other being of base metal. From some slight obvious variations, they have evidently been cast in moulds made from two different copper pieces of the commonest type of the coins of Azes; having the bull on one side, and the Indian lion on the reverse. The piece of good silver is covered on both sides with minute holes, which might possibly have been produced by the action of acid in cleaning the piece from rust; but its edge, which has been hammered all round, proves to my

mind that these minute holes have been occasioned by the piece having been cast, and these peculiar appearances, added to its identity of type, shape, and thickness, with the copper coins, prove it to have been cast in a mould made from one of the commonest copper types of Azes.

The other piece, of base metal, has been manufactured by a less skilful person, for the edge betrays that the halves of the mould had overlapped each other, the projecting rough parts having been only partially filed away: the mouth of the mould is easily discovered by the obliteration of several letters of the legend on both sides at the *same* place, and there is a considerable flaw beneath the figure of the bull, the result of a large air bubble in the cast metal.

The genuine silver coins of Azes are, besides, of a different type, size, thickness and make, and are easily discernible by a practised eye.

The other forgeries which I have seen are of Indo-Scythic gold coins, and these from the barbarous make of the originals are not so easily detected. I have met with at least twenty cast coins of Kanerkas, which have a figure standing to the left on the obverse; and a figure standing to the front with a bull to the left on the reverse, with the legend OKPO: and I have seen four or five cast pieces with the same obverse, having on the reverse a seated female figure with the horn of plenty in her left hand and the legend APΔOXPO.

These spurious pieces which merely reproduce in nobler metals, types and names already known, are easily detected by any one conversant with the published coins of Bactria; and I trust that this brief notice will be of some small service to such of our countrymen in Afghanistan as may be only novices in numismatics.

A counterfeit of another kind, the work of an ancient forger, I hope soon to lay before my readers in a notice of a plated copper drachma of Antimachus.

ALEXANDER CUNNINGHAM.